

PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of data producers, the method comprising:

allocating to each of the plurality of producers ~~being allocated~~ a first portion of the capacity of the common channel and a second portion of the capacity of the common channel, the common channel being a reverse link of a wireless communication system, the first and second portions being data transmission rates,

wherein the second portion of the capacity of the common channel allocated to each of the plurality of producers is based at least in part on the extent to which the corresponding producer is determined to have used the corresponding first portion of the capacity of the common channel.

2. (Original) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 1, wherein each of the first and second portions of the capacity of the common channel is at least a basic rate.

3. (Currently amended) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 2, wherein frames of equal duration in time are divided into a number N of slots of equal duration, each slot of a frame being numbered in order of time from 1 to N, and each of the plurality of producers being assigned a number from 1 to N,

wherein for each number i assigned to one of the plurality of producers, a moment at which a producer i commences producing has a fixed relation in time to the start of a slot having the number i.

4. (Original) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 3, wherein the common channel is the reverse link of a code-division multiple access system for wireless communications.

5. (Original) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 2, wherein the common channel is the reverse link of a code-division multiple access system for wireless communications.

6. (Original) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 1, wherein for each of the plurality of producers the corresponding second portion of the capacity of the common channel exceeds a basic rate only if the corresponding producer is determined to have used all of the corresponding first portion of the capacity of the common channel.

7. (Currently amended) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 6, wherein a passing of time ~~being~~ is divided into frames of equal length, each frame being further divided into a number N of slots of equal length being numbered in order of time from 1 to N, and each of the plurality of producers being assigned a number from 1 to N,

wherein for each number i assigned to one of the plurality of producers, a moment at which a producer i commences producing has a fixed relation in time to the start of a slot having the number i.

8. (Original) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 7, wherein the common channel is the reverse link of a code-division multiple access system for wireless communications.

9. (Original) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 8, wherein each of said plurality of producers uses no more than a subportion of the corresponding second portion of the capacity of the common channel, said

subportion not exceeding a corresponding used portion of the capacity of the common channel multiplied by an allowable rate increase factor, said corresponding used portion of the capacity of the common channel being a part of the corresponding first portion of the capacity of the common channel used by the corresponding one of said plurality of producers.

10. (Original) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 7, wherein each of said plurality of producers uses no more than a subportion of the corresponding second portion of the capacity of the common channel, said subportion not exceeding a corresponding used portion of the capacity of the common channel multiplied by an allowable rate increase factor, said corresponding used portion of the capacity of the common channel being a part of the corresponding first portion of the capacity of the common channel used by the corresponding one of said plurality of producers.

11. (Original) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 6, wherein the common channel is the reverse link of a code-division multiple access system for wireless communications.

12. (Original) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 1, wherein for each producer that is determined to have used all of the corresponding first portion of the capacity of the common channel, the corresponding second portion of the capacity of the common channel is at least a basic rate, and

wherein for each producer that is determined to have used a portion less than all of the corresponding first portion of the capacity of the common channel, the corresponding second portion of the capacity of the common channel is at least a subbasic rate, the subbasic rate being less than the basic rate.

13. (Original) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 12, the subbasic rate being a null rate.

14. (Original) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 12, the subbasic rate being a null rate if the basic rate is greater than the capacity of the common channel divided by the number of the plurality of producers.

15. (Original) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 1, the plurality of producers being divided into a first group and a second group,

wherein for each of the plurality of producers in the first group, each of the first and second portions of the capacity of the common channel is at least a first basic rate, and

wherein for each of the plurality of producers in the second group, each of the first and second portions of the capacity of the common channel is at least a second basic rate, the second basic rate being less than the first basic rate.

16. (Original) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 15, the second basic rate being a null rate.

17. (Original) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 1, a passing of time being divided into frames of equal length, each frame being further divided into a number N of slots of equal length being numbered in order of time from 1 to N , and each of the plurality of producers being assigned a number from 1 to N ,

wherein for each number i assigned to one of the plurality of producers, a moment at which a producer i commences producing has a fixed relation in time to the start of a slot having the number i .

18. (Original) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 1, wherein the common channel is the reverse link of a multiple access system for wireless communications.

19. (Original) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 18, wherein the common channel is the reverse link of a code-division multiple access system for wireless communications.

20. (Original) The method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of producers has an amount of data to be produced and uses no more than a subportion of the corresponding second portion of the capacity of the common channel, said subportion being based on the amount of data to be produced.

21. (Currently amended) A ~~method~~ control unit for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers, comprising operable to:

issue an allocation grant to allocate ~~allocating a first portion of the capacity data transmission rate of [[the]] a common reverse channel of a wireless communication system to each of [[the]] a plurality of data producers; and~~

allocating a second portion of the capacity data transmission rate of the common channel to each of the plurality of producers,

wherein the second portion of the capacity data transmission rate of the common channel allocated to each of the plurality of producers is based at least in part on the extent to which a corresponding producer is determined to have used a corresponding first portion of the capacity data transmission rate of the common channel.

22. (Currently amended) An apparatus for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers, the common channel being a reverse link of a wireless communication system, the apparatus comprising:

means for allocating a first portion of the capacity of the common channel to each of the plurality of producers; and

means for allocating a second portion of the capacity of the common channel to each of the plurality of producers, the first and second portions being data transmission rates,

wherein the second portion of the capacity of the common channel allocated to each of the plurality of producers is based at least in part on the extent to which a corresponding producer is determined to have used a corresponding first portion of the capacity of the common channel.

23. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium embodying a method for allocating a capacity of a common channel among a plurality of producers, the common channel being a reverse link of a wireless communication system, the method comprising:

allocating a first portion of the capacity of the common channel to each of the plurality of producers; and

allocating a second portion of the capacity of the common channel to each of the plurality of producers, the first and second portions being data transmission rates,

wherein the second portion of the capacity of the common channel allocated to each of the plurality of producers is based at least in part on the extent to which a corresponding producer is determined to have used a corresponding first portion of the capacity of the common channel.